I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ORDINARY HUMANS!
HARUHI SUZUMIYA, FROM EAST CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL.
ARMBAND CHIEF
IF THERE ARE ANY ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, SLIDERS, OR ESPERS, COME SEE ME!
THAT IS ALL!

IF I COULD MEET MY PAST SELF, I WOULD WANT TO TELL HIM...
IT HAD BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE I HADN'T BELIEVED IN ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, AND ESPERS.
BUT IN MY CHILDHOOD, I'D WANTED TO BELIEVE.
ALONG WITH YOUR DREAM OF MEETING AN INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE WOMAN...
...BE HAPPY! YOUR DREAM WILL COME TRUE!

AND THEN THIS YEAR —
LOOKING BACK, IT MADE ME WONDER IF I SHOULD TURN MY EXPERIENCES INTO SOME KIND OF AUTO-BIOGRAPHY.
I COULD COUNT ON HAVING PLENTY OF MATERIAL, AFTER ALL.

© The Surprise of Haruhi Suzumiya XVI

HEY, KYON.
INTRO-DUCE ME TO A GIRL, MAN.
HEY, LAY OFF!
GASHI (GRABB)
MORNIN', PAL.
CHICHICHI (CHIRP)
CHUN (TWEET)

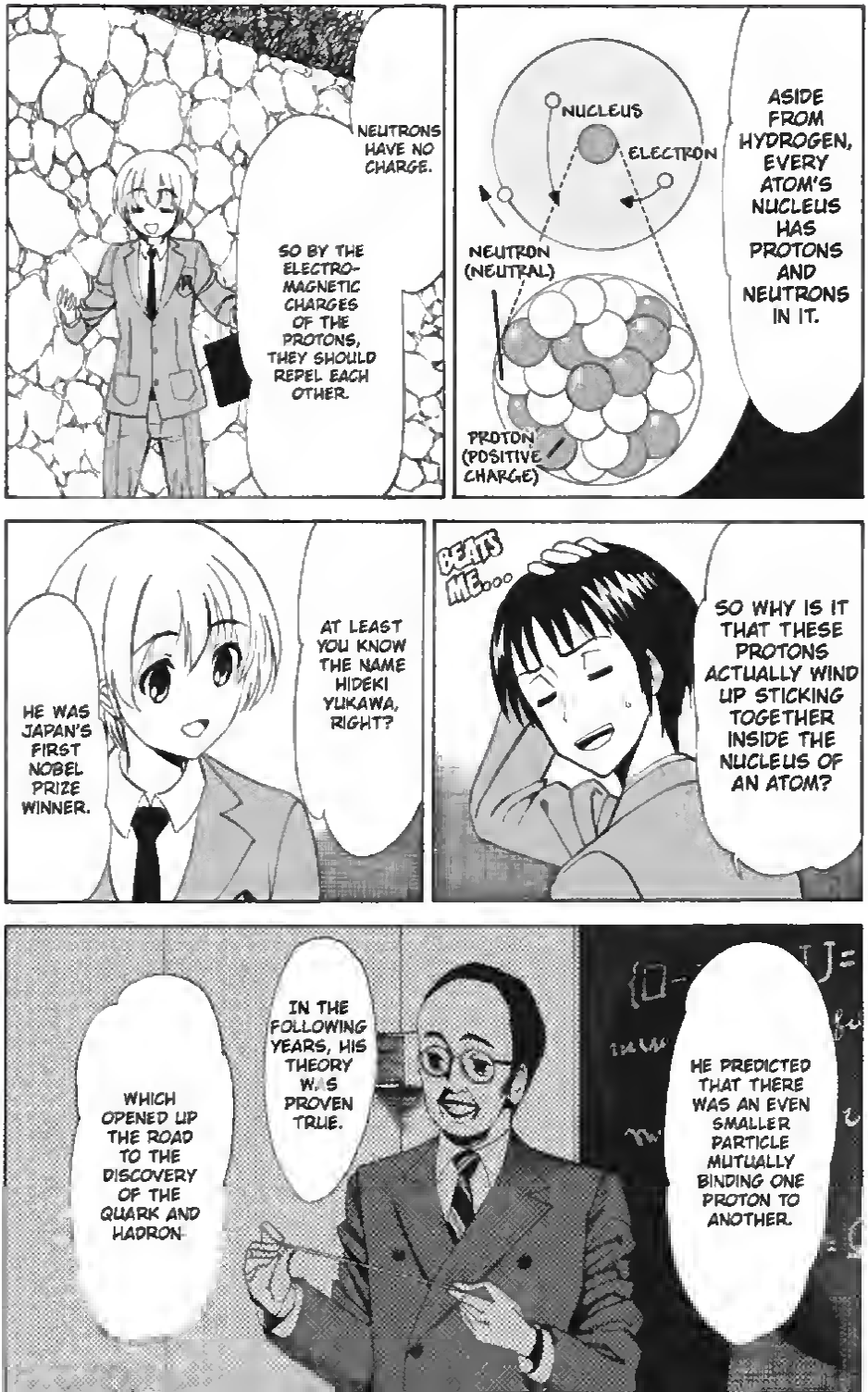
SO INTRODUCE ME, MAN!
THIS SASAKI GIRL'S QUITE THE CUTIE, RIGHT?
I HEARD FROM KUNIKIDA.

YEAH?
NOBODY'S GOT MY BACK, I SWEAR ...
SHE'D JUST WIND UP DUMPING YOU WORSE THAN KUYOH DID!
PA (SMACK)
KNOCK IT OFF. LISTEN UP, TANI-GUCHI.
YOU'RE NOT SASAKI'S TYPE!

NOT ONLY DO I NOT HAVE ANY WORTHWHILE GIRLS AROUND ME, THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY DECENT GUYS.
YOU'RE GONNA REGRET DOING NOTHING BUT BABYSITTING SUZUMIYA!
I'M TOUCHED BY YOUR CONCERN.
JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND DON'T DATE ANY MORE WEIRDOS, OKAY?
HAW HAW! HAW!!

HEY, KYON.
FLIN

IT'S PRETTY COMMON FOR PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS TO REPEL EACH OTHER.
IT'S ACTUALLY TRUE THAT OPPOSITES ATTRACT.
AND...
...THIS IS GOING TO INVOLVE SOME PHYSICS, BUT...
...IT'S EVEN CLEARER AT THE MICRO LEVEL OF PARTICLES.
EVEN YOU'RE DOING THE PHILOSOPHY THING, HUH?


NEUTRONS HAVE NO CHARGE.
SO BY THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CHARGES OF THE PROTONS, THEY SHOULD REPEL EACH OTHER.
NUCLEUS
ELECTRON
NEUTRON (NEUTRAL)
PROTON (POSITIVE CHARGE)
ASIDE FROM HYDROGEN, EVERY ATOM'S NUCLEUS HAS PROTONS AND NEUTRONS IN IT.
AT LEAST YOU KNOW THE NAME HIDEKI YUKAWA, RIGHT?
HE WAS JAPAN'S FIRST NOBEL PRIZE WINNER.
BEATS ME....
SO WHY IS IT THAT THESE PROTONS ACTUALLY WIND UP STICKING TOGETHER INSIDE THE NUCLEUS OF AN ATOM?
IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS, HIS THEORY W. S PROVEN TRUE.
WHICH OPENED UP THE ROAD TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE QUARK AND HADRON.
HE PREDICTED THAT THERE WAS AN EVEN SMALLER PARTICLE MUTUALLY BINDING ONE PROTON TO ANOTHER.

KYON.
I CAN'T HELP BUT SEE YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN AS VERY SIMILAR.
I ASSUMED THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD COLLAPSE.
THAT'S STILL THE SENSE I GET.
BUT FAR FROM IT—YOU AND SUZUMIYA HAVE BECOME INSEPARABLE.
IS THAT HOW IT LOOKS?

THIS IS WHERE THE NUCLEAR FORCE PROFESSOR YUKAWA DISCOVERED COMES IN.

THE STRONG FORCE THAT KEEPS PROTONS FROM FLYING APART IS THE SAME THING KEEPING YOU AND HER TOGETHER.
BUT IT'S NOT ANY OF THE FOUR ELEMENTARY FORCES—
NOT THE STRONG NUCLEAR FORCE, WEAK NUCLEAR FORCE, ELECTRO-MAGNETISM, OR GRAVITY.

CONSIDERING IT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS...
...I THINK THE OTHERS AROUND YOU ARE SIGNIFICANT.

BUT MAYBE IT'S A NEW FORCE... A FIFTH ELEMENT.
BUT THAT'S JUST WISHFUL SCIENTIFIC THINKING.

IN ORDER TO DISRUPT THE BALANCE, ALL YOU CAN DO IS IMPACT EACH MUTUALLY-REINFORCING ELEMENT.
BUT I DON'T THINK THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE CAPABLE OF THAT.

I GET THE FEELING THE SOS BRIGADE IS STRUCTURED LIKE AN ATOM.
ON THE LARGE SCALE IT MOVES AROUND, STICKING TO SOME THINGS AND BOUNCING OFF OTHERS.
BUT INTER-NALLY IT'S VERY COHESIVE AND STABLE.

EVEN I KNOW THAT MUCH.
BUT EVEN IF SHE KNOWS THAT, SHE'S PROBABLY CHOSEN NOT TO.
TSURUYA-SAN COULD PROBABLY DO IT.

I'M KIND OF SHOCKED.
REALLY?
IT'S A BIT EMBAR-RASSING.
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I'VE TOLD.

HER BEING A NORTH HIGH STUDENT ...
...IS ACTUALLY THE ONLY REASON I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL.

I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW JUST HOW UNFATH-OMABLY SMART SHE IS.
THANKS TO YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN, I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN ABLE TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER.
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, TSU-RUYA'S AN HONEST-TO-GOOD-NESS GENIUS.

TO BE WITH A GENIUS, YOU HAVE TO BE AT THEIR LEVEL TOO.
BUT IT'S A LITTLE DEPRESSING.

ALTHOUGH BY THE TIME I GET TO HER LEVEL, SHE'LL BE EVEN HIGHER...
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP.

TO REACH SUCH HEIGHTS, ALL I CAN DO IS STUDY AS HARD AS I CAN.

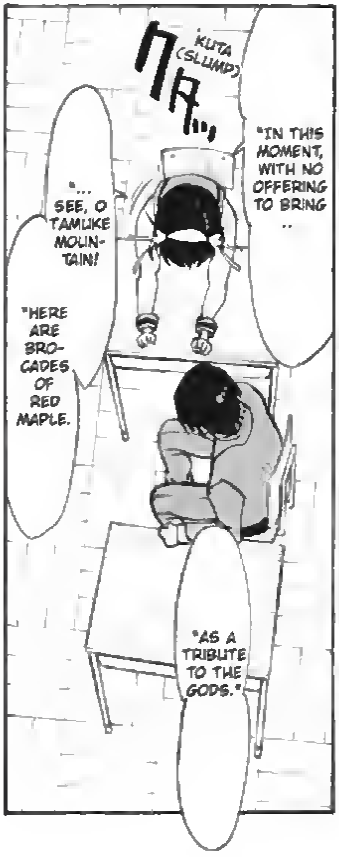
I FEEL PRETTY GOOD RIGHT NOW.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO WORK HARD TO KEEP UP. I GET EXCITED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
THE PERSON I'VE SET AS MY GOAL IS CHARGING ON AHEAD.
IS THAT WEIRD?
NOT AT ALL.
YOU'VE GOT GREAT ASPI-RATIONS.

I HADN'T KNOWN KUNIKIDA COULD BE SO TALKATIVE.
I GUESS YOU CAN NEVER TELL ABOUT SOME PEOPLE.
TO SET HIS SIGHTS ON TSURUYA-SAN, WHOSE STANDARDS WERE SO HIGH NOT EVEN KOIZUMI MET THEM...
...HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SEARCH THE WORLD FOR WHAT HE WAS SEEKING.
I BET YOU'LL GET TO A GOOD PLACE, KUNIKIDA.
TSURUYA-SAN BEING TSURUYA-SAN, SHE'D PROBABLY LIKE SOMEONE WHO'D FORCED HIMSELF TO BE SMART.
THE BEST I COULD PROBABLY HOPE FOR IS BEING TREATED LIKE A MUCH YOUNGER BROTHER.

HEY, HARUHI.
WHY'D YOU COME TO NORTH HIGH?
HMM...
OH, KYON.
WE'RE BACK TO NORMAL OPERATION TODAY.
GI (SQUEEK)
COME STRAIGHT TO THE CLUB ROOM AFTER CLASS.
HUH.
WHAT'S WITH THAT GRIN?
FUMU FUMMO
I JUST FELT LIKE IT.
I COULD'VE GONE TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL...
...BUT I GOT THE FEELING THIS PLACE WOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE INTERESTING CLUB.

NOT AT ALL.
ANYWAY, WOULD A CLUB THAT WAS THAT OBVIOUS HAVE GOTTEN YOUR ATTENTION?

GUU (GRUMBLE)
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY.
THERE WEREN'T ANY GOOD CLUBS AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING MY INTUITION WAS BAD.


KUTA (SLUMP)
"IN THIS MOMENT, WITH NO OFFERING TO BRING ..
"... SEE, O TAMLIKE MOUNTAIN!
"HERE ARE BROCADES OF RED MAPLE.
"AS A TRIBUTE TO THE GODS."

OTHERWISE IT'S NOT A S-E-C-R-E-T.
AND WHEN I SAY "SECRET," I MEAN IT SPELLED OUT IN HIRAGANA.
HEH HEH.

I GUESS NOT.
I WAS JUST HOPING FOR SOME KIND OF SECRET ORGANIZATION.

THE SECRET ORGANIZATION YOU FOUNDED WAS NOW ROOTED IN THIS SCHOOL.
YOUR WISH CAME TRUE, HARUHI.
ITS MEANING ASIDE...
...I KNOW FOR SURE THAT'S NOT A SPRING POEM.
AHH...
DEEPLY ENOUGH THAT A FEW TIME TRAVELERS AND ALIENS COULDN'T SHAKE IT.
YO.
HM?

SHAWAWA (POUR)
I GUESS SHE WAS REALLY A MIDDLE SCHOOLER ALL ALONG ...
NO WONDER I KEPT THINKING SHE SEEMED LIKE A YOUNGER SISTER.

SHE WAS JUST SO, SO CUTE!
HAAH (SIGH)
AND SHE CALLED ME "SENPAI..."

NOW THAT SHE MENTIONED IT, I REALIZED I'D NEVER CALLED ASAHINA-SAN "SENPAI" EITHER.

IF I WERE TO TELL HER EVERY-THING I KNEW ABOUT ASAHINA THE ELDER AND FUJI-WARA...
THIS ASAHINA-SAN RIGHT HERE WOULD SOMEHOW EVENTUALLY BECOME THE ADULT VERSION OF HERSELF

I REALIZED SOME-THING AS I GAZED AT THE WISTFUL ASAHINA-SAN.

NEXT YEAR I'LL BE...
I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN.
THIS GOT LEFT IN THE CLUB ROOM.
...GRADUATING.
WOULD THAT BRING THE TIME-TRAVELER-RELATED INCIDENTS TO AN END?
I'LL LEAVE THE FUTURE TO MY FUTURE SELF.
SORRY I'M LATE!
AH, WELL, HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
THE TIME TRAVELERS COULD TAKE CARE OF THE FUTURE HOWEVER THEY LIKED.
I WONDERED IF THAT WAS WHY ASAHINA-SAN WAS A YEAR AHEAD OF US IN THIS "SETTING."

I USED TO HAVE ONE JUST LIKE IT.
HYOI (TOSS)
NOW I REMEMBER.

HUH?
KO (TOK)

I KNEW I'D SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
TA (TLIP)
I LOST IT WHEN I STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SO SHE USED ONE TOO, HUH?

WHO WAS IT THAT CALLED OUT TO HARUHI, I WONDER.
WAS IT SOMEONE I KNEW, OR WAS IT SOME THIRD PARTY I'D NEVER MET IN MY LIFE?
SEEING HER FROM BEHIND, I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF THE FUTURE HARUHI I'D SEEN IN MY VISION.
THAT MUCH I HAD TO ACKNOWLEDGE, AFTER ALL.
I HOPED I'D BE PART OF THAT SCENE.
IF SO, THAT HADN'T BEEN A VERY NICE VISION.
BUT WHEN I REALIZED WHAT I WAS THINKING, I FORGOT TO FEIGN SHOCK AND SIMPLY ACCEPTED IT.

TO DO THAT, THERE WAS STILL A LOT I HAD TO ACCOMPLISH.
WOULD THE OTHER ALIEN FACTION KEEP CAUSING PROBLEMS?
WHAT ABOUT TACHIBANA'S PSEUDO-AGENCY?
GOING ALONG WITH HARUHI'S COMPULSORY TUTORING.

SECOND ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S SOS BRIGADE MEETING!!
WHAT PRESENT WAS I GOING TO GET THE BRIGADE CHIEF?
OR— WHAT HAD I GOTTEN HER?
I DIDN'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA, AND IT WAS GIVING ME A HEADACHE.
SECOND ANNUAL... WAIT, WHAT?
I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS!

BUT I WAS GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF.
I HAD SOMETHING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF.
KYON, READ IT!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO TSURUYA-SAN'S BLOSSOM VIEWING PARTY.
BUT IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO JUST EAT AND DRINK.
THE SOS BRIGADE'S SPIRIT OF SERVICE AND MY SENSE OF PRIDE WON'T ALLOW THAT!
SO!
WE'RE GONNA PUT ON A SIDE-SHOW!
A SHOW THAT'LL GET EVERY-BODY THERE AP-PLAUD-ING LIKE CRAZY!
YEAH!

NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE.
THE TSURUYA FAMILY BLOSSOM PARTY IS A BIG DEAL, YOU KNOW?
ALL KINDS OF LOCAL CELEBRITIES AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE COME TO THIS THING.
THE QUALITY OF THE AUDIENCE WILL BE— WHAT, YOU SAY?
HIGH? LAUGHTER KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

WE'RE GONNA DO THIS SIDE-SHOW!
NO — MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CALL IT THE MAIN EVENT!
THE SOS BRIGADE PRESENTS THE GREATEST LAUGHS ON EARTH...
...A FRESH NEW ENTER-TAINMENT EXPERIENCE ...
...THAT WILL BRING PEACE TO THE ENTIRE PLANET!

I GOT THE FEELING THAT ANOTHER POINTLESS LINE WAS GOING TO GET ADDED TO MY RESUME.
BUT, I'D MANAGE SOMEHOW.
I WASN'T ALONE, FORTUNATELY.
THANKS TO ALL THE RUNNING AROUND I'D DONE, I'D GOT PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE AND FRIENDS.
AND ANY-WAY...

NO MATTER WHO WE FACED,
...SO LONG AS THE FIVE OF US WERE TOGETHER, WE COULD DO ANYTHING.
SUUU (INHALE)

SIGN: SOS BRIGADE MEETING IN PROGRESS! TOP SECRET

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya